

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 230934Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHC 4575
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: JA US CH UR NK NS
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF JANUARY 21 DIET SPEECHES ON FOREIGN POLICY

1. SUMMARY: FM FUKUDA AND FONMIN SONODA'S POLICY
SPEECHES TO DIET JANUARY 21 CONTAINED NO SURPRISES ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS--PM'S THEME OF "COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY"
FOR COPING WITH INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS WAS EXACTLY SAME
AS IN HIS POLICY SPEECH OF LAST YEAR, AND EMPHASIS
PREDICTABLY WAS ON RELATIONS WITH US, CHINA AND USSR. AS
USUAL, LANGUAGE WAS CAREFULLY NON-CONTROVERSIAL, WITH
REMARKS TOWARD KOREAS BEING PARTICULARLY FINE-TUNED.
END SUMMARY

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2. PM FUKUDA, IN DIET POLICY SPEECH JANUARY 21,
CALLED RELATIONS WITH US "FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO
JAPAN THAN THOSE WITH ANY OTHER NATION," AND
REAFFIRMED THAT CORNERSTONE OF JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY
REMAINED "MAINTENANCE AND STRENGTHENING OF CLOSE
TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION FORGED ON BASIS
OF JAPAN-U.S. SECURITY TREATY." ON PFT WITH CHINESE,

FUKUDA DID NOT SPECIFY TIME FRAME FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS, BUT STRESSED THAT GOJ WAS SEEKING SOLUTION WHICH WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES, AND, IN CHARACTERISTICALLY CAUTIOUS FORMULATION, SAID TIME FOR PURSUING NEGOTIATIONS "WOULD SEEM TO BE GRADUALLY GROWING RIPE." HE DESCRIBED SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE AS "REGRETTABLE" ONE, WHICH "REMAINED RIGID" FOLLOWING FONMIN'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW. HE EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S RESOLVE TO PERSEVERE IN SEEKING PEACE TREATY WHICH WOULD RESOLVE TERRITORIAL ISSUE.

3. FUKUDA MADE NO MENTION IN HIS SPEECH OF GOJ POLICY TOWARD KOREA, BUT FONMIN SONODA DEVOTED 3 PARAGRAPHS TO SUBJECT. HE STATED JAPAN WOULD STRIVE TO "FURTHER BROADEN" RELATIONS WITH ROK; CALLED ON DIET TO PASS ENABLING LEGISLATION ON JAPAN-ROK CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT; EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR "GRADUAL EXPANSION OF INTERCHANGES" WITH NORTH KOREA; AND STATED JAPAN WILL "ACTIVELY COOPERATE" IN CREATING INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO RELAXATION OF TENSION ON KOREAN PENINSULA. WITH REGARD TO INDOCHINA, SONODA STATED JAPAN WOULD "SEEK TO FOSTER COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BASED ON MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING." BOTH PM AND FONMIN'S STATEMENTS ON FUKUDA'S VISIT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA LAST SUMMER
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AND SONODA'S RECENT TRIP TO FOUR MIDDLE EASTERN STATES WERE GENERAL REAFFIRMATION OF JAPAN'S DESIRES FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THOSE AREAS.
MANSFIELD

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